



775

KELLY
MAHNKE
BERMEJO
ALDUIZA
ROYAL



SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS

WHAT'S SO "FUNNY" 'BOUT

TRUTH,
JUSTICE
& THE
AMERICAN
WAY?



dc.com

DIRECT SALES



\$3.75 US \$6.25 CAN

TIME
BRAD-
SHEER-
ZOO

5:00 A.M. METROPOLIS LOCAL TIME.

...**BREAKING STORY THIS MORNING -- A MAJOR TERRORIST ACTION TAKING PLACE IN LIBYA --**

8:02 A.M. OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

...**THE GENETICALLY ENHANCED :SKRTT? -- HAS ATTACKED THE :ZZKRT? TRIPOLI WITH HEAVY ARTILLERY --**

11:03 A.M. MADRID LOCAL TIME.

...**HUNDREDS OF TROOPS CONVERGING. HEAVY COLLATERAL DAMAGE EXPECTED. THE LIBYAN ARMY -- WAIT... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING --> ♥**

TRANSLATION -- ED

12:04 P.M. TRIPOLI LOCAL TIME.

'Dear God in Heaven... what have they done? What have they done?'

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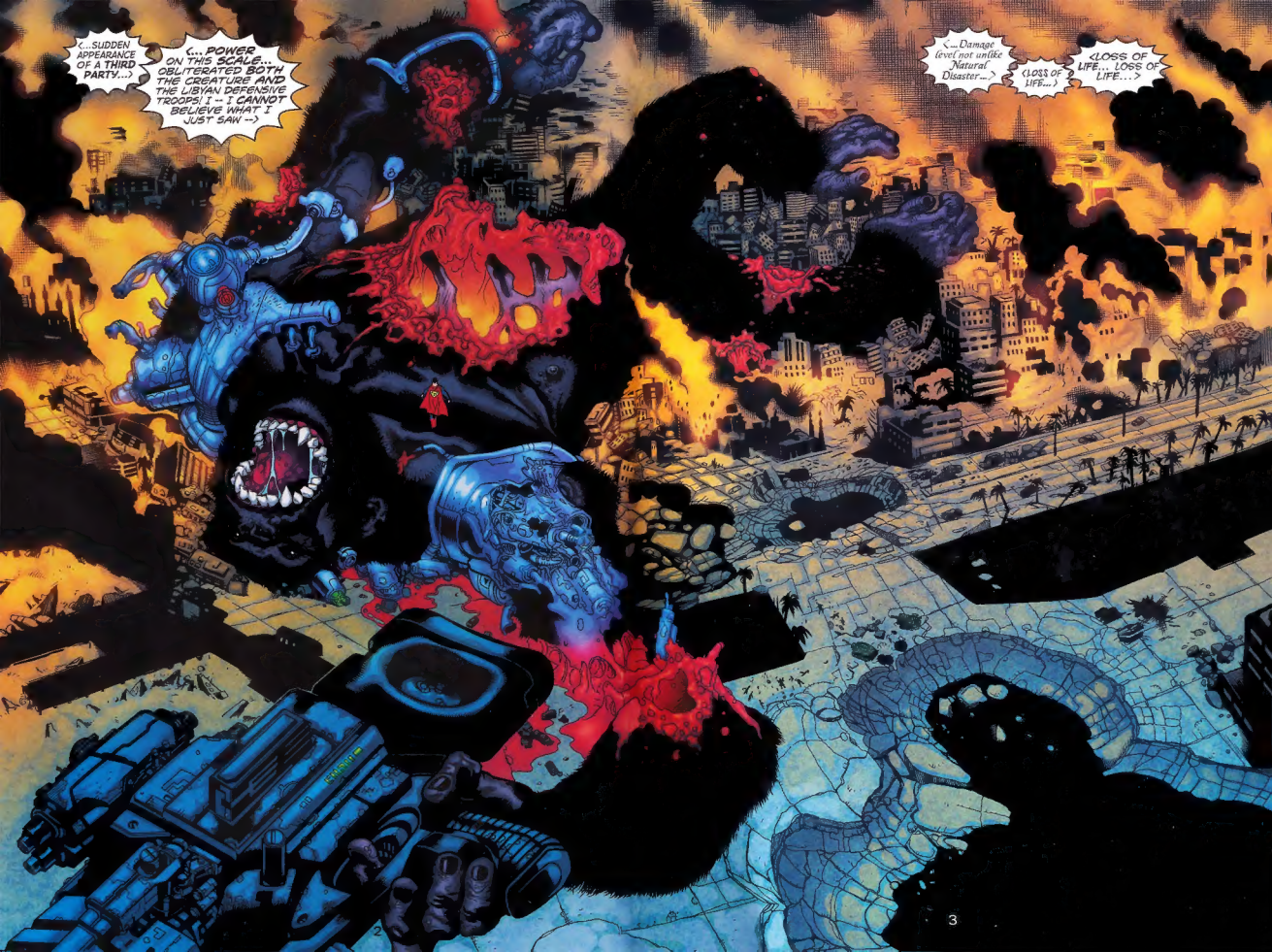
C... SUDDEN
APPEARANCE
OF A THIRD
PARTY...

C... POWER
ON THIS SCALE
OBLITERATED BOTH
THE CREATURE AND
THE LEBIAN DEFENSIVE
TROOPS... I CANNOT
BELIEVE WHAT I
JUST SAW -->

C... Damage
level not unlike
Natural
Disaster...

(LOSS OF
LIFE...)

(LOSS OF
LIFE... LOSS OF
LIFE...)



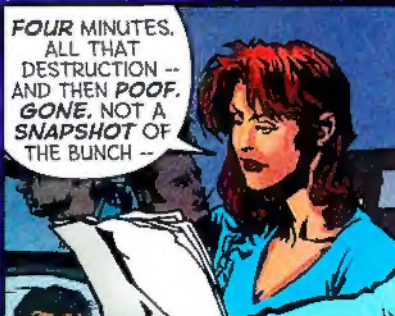


"WOULD IT BE WRONG IF
EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO
WORKED AT THE **STAR** WAS
TAKEN OUT BACK AND **SHOT**?"



"AT 12:04,
TRIPOLI **SHOOK**,
AND GAVE BIRTH TO
FOUR SMALL GODS
CALLED THE
ELITE --"?

SOMEONE GET
ME A **BUCKET** AND
AMMUNITION.
PLEASE.



FOUR MINUTES.
ALL THAT
DESTRUCTION --
AND THEN **POOF**.
GONE. NOT A
SNAPSHOT OF
THE BUNCH --



BUT THEY SURE MANAGED
TO **NAME-DROP**, DIDN'T
THEY? CAN ANYONE SAY
"**CALCULATED P.R.**"?

"THE **ELITE**
SAVES TRIPOLI." I'M
SURE THE FAMILIES
OF **TWO THOUSAND**
SOLDIERS FEEL
"**SAVED**."

DAYS
LIKE THIS, I
REALLY, REALLY
WISH I KNEW
MORE SWEAR
WORDS.

STICK AROUND,
JIMMY... IT'S **EARLY**
AND I HAVEN'T HAD ANY
SUGAR --. LOIS, WHAT'S CLARK
READ FROM THE **FIELD**? WHY'S
HE SO **QUIET** OVER THERE?



YOU
KNOW...
HE'S JUST...
PROCESSING
IT ALL,
PERRY.



"MANCHESTER BLACK, APPARENT LEADER OF THE GROUP, TOLD A LIBYAN GENERAL, THE OLD WAYS ARE DEAD. TRUST ME, IN LESS THAN A YEAR, YOU'LL LOVE ME FOR THIS..."

THEY FORGOT TO MENTION HE FOLLOWED THAT UP BY SEVERING THE MAN'S LEGS AT THE SHINS USING ONLY HIS MIND.

READERS OF THE STAR PREFER THEIR HEROES **BOLD**, BUT NOT **GORY**. CALL IT GOOD TASTE.

WHO SAID THAT? WHO THE HELL SAID --



FINISHED YOUR ARTICLE, JACK. IT'S SO SLANTED A CARPENTER COULDN'T FIX IT. HOW CAN YOU PORTRAY THESE MURDERERS AS HEROES?

BOBO HAHA AND THE KHADAFI-O'S WERE ABOUT TO TAKE OUT HALF OF TRIPOLI PLAYING MONKEY IN THE MIDDLE.



THE ELITE STOPPED IT COLD. PERIOD. SMELLS LIKE HERO TO ME.

THAT SITUATION COULD HAVE BEEN CONTAINED WITHOUT A SINGLE LIFE LOST! SUPERMAN COULD HAVE --



SUPERMAN? THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT -- "ENOUGH MONKEY BUSINESS, GUYS. I'M TAKING YOU AND YOUR TERRORIST CHUMS DOWNTOWN FOR A SPANKING --"

AND THREE MONTHS LATER, IT WOULD HAPPEN ALL OVER AGAIN.



THE WORLD IS SICK AND **BROKEN**, KENT. PEOPLE WANT SOMEONE TO **FIX** IT, NOT HAND OUT SLOGANS AND **BANDAGES**.

THE AGE OF SUPERMEN IS OVER. VIVA THE **ELITE**.



DRESSED A LITTLE WARM FOR LIBYA, NO? YOU NEED HELP CHANGING INTO SOME SILK BEDSHEETS --

NAME'S JACK RYDER... AS IN A RIDE TO PARADISE --

-- HEY, KENT, DON'T **BOGART** THE TRANSCONTINENTAL TELECASTER. THE STAR PAID FOR HALF THE AIR TIME.

"DIRECT-TV POLLING
REVEALS A CURIOUS
TREND AMONG THE
POPULACE, SIR.

"ACROSS PARTY LINES,
SOCIOECONOMIC
BRACKETS AND RACIAL
GROUPS -- EXCLUDING
LIBYANS, OF COURSE --
THERE'S A THIRTY-TWO
PERCENT APPROVAL RATING
OF THE ELITE'S ACTION.

"OUR PEOPLE ESTIMATED THAT
NUMBER WOULD BE HALF."



CONVERSELY, NATO, OPEC, THE U.N. AND
THE REST ARE DEMANDING A RESPONSE
TO THIS "FASCISTIC ACT OF
BRUTALITY."

OF COURSE,
THEY'RE SCREAMING
THIS FROM BEHIND CLOSED
DOORS. EVERYONE'S ON
HOLD FOR A STATEMENT
FROM YOU, SIR.

MMM.
WHAT AM
I LOOKING
AT?



TECHNICALLY
SPEAKING, SIR?
A POWER
DISCHARGE OF
BIBLICAL
PROPORTIONS.
THE ONE
CALLED COLDCAST
BLINKED HIS EYES AND
SHORTED FIFTEEN
SATELLITES FROM
THREE HUNDRED
MILES OUT.



MS. WALLER,
THESE P.M. SCALE
READINGS RIVAL
SUPERMAN'S,
DON'T THEY?

SIR, HE'D
NEED A JETPACK
AND THE SPACE
SHUTTLE TO EVEN
CONSIDER A
SCORE THAT
HIGH.

INDEED...

THE PALMER METAHUMAN
SCALE -- ED.



THE INSTANT THE ELITE
LOOK CROSSWISE AT
AMERICAN CITIZENS,
WE WILL TURN
THEM INTO CAT
FOOD.

UNTIL THEN... THESE...
"PEOPLE" TEND TO MIX
WITH THEIR OWN. METAS
FIGHTING METAS FOR
BRAGGING RIGHTS.
WE HAVE SOME
TIME.

RELEASE SOME
STATEMENT CONDEMNING
VIOLENCE IN ALL OF ITS HORRIBLE
FORMS, AND MEANWHILE...



...WE WAIT
AND SEE WHO'S
STANDING WHEN
THE SMOKE
CLEARS.

"WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN NATIONS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN TREATIES OR BOUNDARIES OR CLASSES OR POLITICS..."

"THERE ARE THE GOOD GUYS, NAMELY US, AND THERE ARE THE BAD GUYS --"

"NAMELY ANYONE WHO TREATS ANYONE ELSE LIKE TRASH TO FURTHER THEIR OWN PETTY AIMS."

"YOU ASKED FOR US, WORLD. NOW YOU GOT US. BE GOOD, OR WE'LL BLOW YOUR HOUSE WITH A FIFTY-MEGATON CLOD-SEEKING CLUSTER BOMB. LOVE, US."

THE ELITE'S "MANIFESTO," DOWNLOADED INSTANTANEOUSLY INTO EVERY PC IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE ONES IN HARD ISOLATION BENEATH THE PENTAGON.

LUCKY US, KRYPTONIAN COMPUTERS SEEM TO BE IMMUNE TO SELF-SERVING RHETORIC.

NOTHING. NO VISUALS. NO REFERENCE POINTS... THEY LEFT NOTHING. EITHER THE ELITE ARE RIDICULOUSLY LUCKY --

-- OR THEY'RE REALLY, REALLY GOOD.

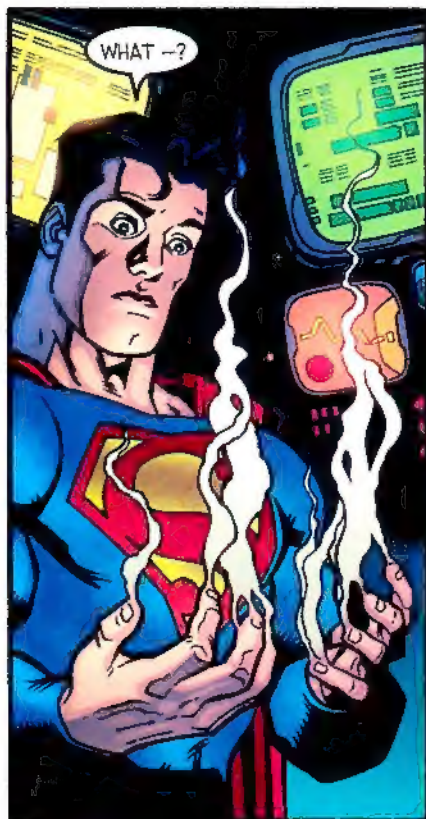
THEY'RE DOWNLOADING DATA VIA POST-DIMENSIONAL PROBABILITY RUNNEL...

...AND TOSsing AROUND ENOUGH POWER TO IGNITE A SUN --

-- "GOOD" IS TOO SMALL FOR THEM. THEY'RE A FORCE OF... NATURE...?

SO IS THE BUBONIC PLAGUE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT A "GOOD GUY."

WHOA... KAL...?





<-- ATTACK IN
DOWNTOWN TOKYO,
AND THE QUESTION ON
EVERYONE'S LIPS --
WILL THE ELITE MAKE
A SHOW?>

-- EFFECTIVE.
EFFICIENT. I SAY,
MORE POWER
TO 'EM --



<-- TOO EARLY TO TELL IF THE
BALANCE OF POWER HAS SHIFTED,
BUT IF THE POLLS ARE AN
INDICATION -->

<-- DEAD MONKEY
AND DEAD TERRORISTS,
I'M SLEEPING BETTER AT
NIGHT. WHERE WAS THE
BIG BLUE --?>



<-- ATTACK IN
DOWNTOWN TOKYO,
AND THE QUESTION ON
EVERYONE'S LIPS --
WILL THE ELITE MAKE
A SHOW?>



-- KILLERS.
DO I HAVE TO
SPELL IT OUT?
K-I-L-L --

1. THE ELITE ARE
HERE TO STAY.
WHO'S STRONG
ENOUGH TO SAY
OTHERWISE?







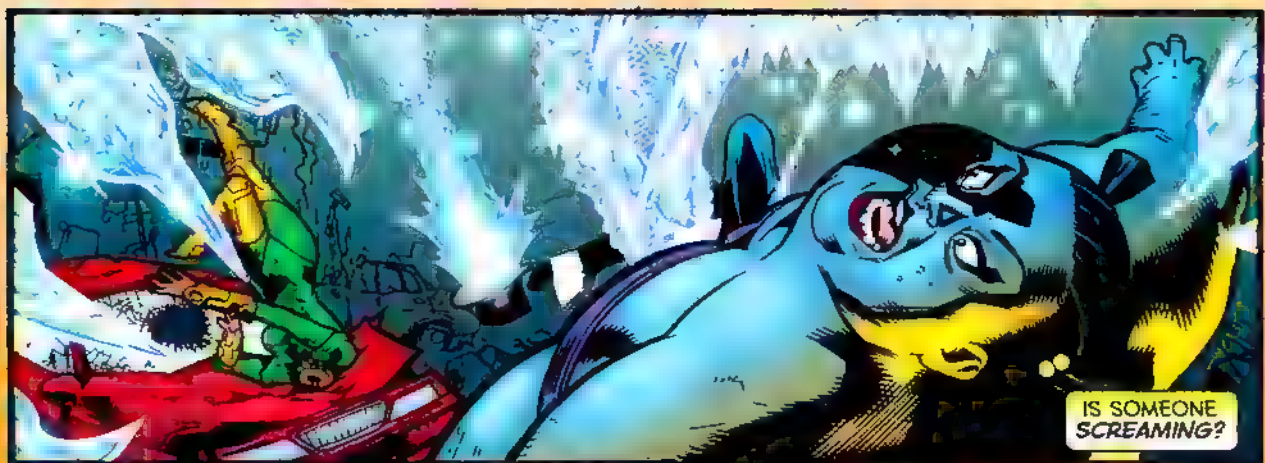
D-DON'T THINK **HEARD**
ME. I DIDN'T. **HEAR ME.**



HEAD THICK. CAN'T -- SEE.
SPOTS. SEE NOTHING.



WAIT



IS SOMEONE
SCREAMING?



W WHO'S
THERE? I
CAN'T -



SMELL. RUBBER
AND CUT GRASS.
WHO'S **FIGHTING?**

BODY.
WORK. WHY
WON'T IT --

(COWARDS!
ANIMALS! FACE
ME IN THE OPEN
AND BE CUT DOWN
LIKE THE DOGS
YOU --)

SKREEEEEE

THERE HEARD A
VOICE. MOVING
CAN SEE --

NOT
POSSIBLE. NOT
POSSIBLE.

OH MY
GOD.

TINK
TINK
TINK

WOOF,
MATE

NO!

SKATTSCH!

NO

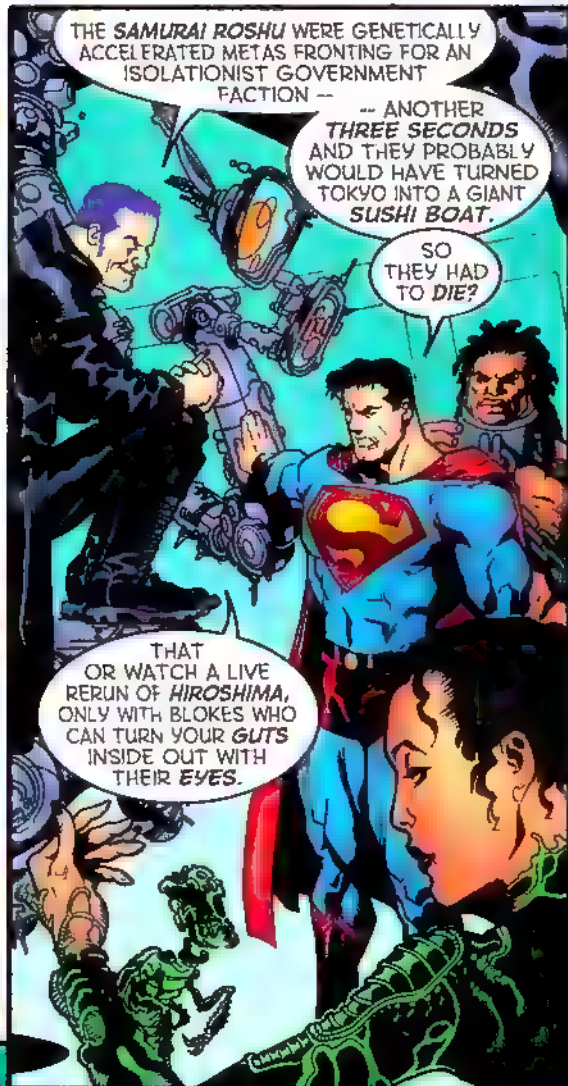
WHAT? WANTED
US TO **SAVE** ONE
FOR YOU? SHOULDN'T
HAVE TAKEN SUCH A
LONG **LIE DOWN**,
THEN, MATE.

KIDDING.
BIG FANS, REALLY
HOW'S ABOUT WE GO
KICK SOME **TIRES**
AND TELL SOME
LIES?





HIGH-FREQUENCY NEUTRINO WASH. THOUGHT IT WOULD DROP THEM, BUT THE HONEY WITH THE AURA HAD THEM SHIELDED MY BAD. HE'S ALL CLEAN, 'CHESTER.



THE SAMURAI ROSHU WERE GENETICALLY ACCELERATED METAS FRONTING FOR AN ISOLATIONIST GOVERNMENT FACTION --

-- ANOTHER THREE SECONDS AND THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TURNED TOKYO INTO A GIANT SUSHI BOAT.

SO THEY HAD TO DIE?

THAT OR WATCH A LIVE RERUN OF HIROSHIMA, ONLY WITH BLOKES WHO CAN TURN YOUR GUTS INSIDE OUT WITH THEIR EYES.



"ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS." CLEVER. WHAT'S NEXT, "WIR BRAUCHEN LEBENSRAUM"?

LEMME GUESS STILL CRANKY AFTER COLDCAST STOPPED YOUR ELECTRONS FROM FLOWING

YOU'RE FORGIVEN. LET'S START OVER.



THIS IS HOME. A BACTERIA COLONY BY BIRTH, "BUNNY" BECAME A FLOATING FORTRESS WHEN WE SHANGHAIED HER TO THIS UNIVERSE

SPOILS OF WAR. THE REST OF HER KIND WERE ON THE LOSING END OF A CIVIL ACTION. GUESS WHO CAPTURED THE FLAG?

WE THINK SHE HAD THE CAPACITY TO FEEL LOSS, SO WE JETTISONED HER HEART A FEW YEARS BACK. SEEMED THE HUMANE THING TO DO --

I DON'T WANT A TOUR. I WANT YOU TO STOP.



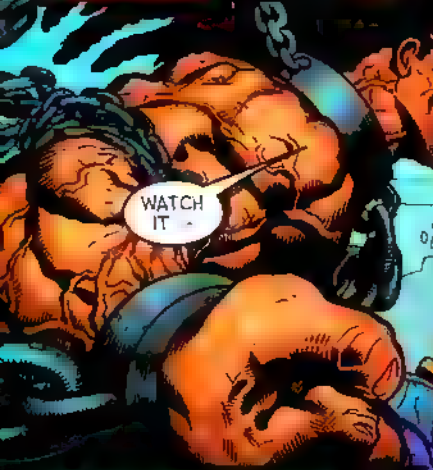
FOR A BLOKE WHO SPORTS A CAPE, VER NOT VERY JOLLY.

YOU'RE GETTING PEOPLE KILLED. I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE TERRORISTS OR ARMED REBELS, IT'S NOT RIGHT. THIS HAS TO STOP.

NO, ACTUALLY

THAT HAS TO STOP. EVERY TIME WE WIN A BATTLE, THE HAT FALLS DOWN KNACKERED. IT'S A REPRESSION ISSUE, I THINK.

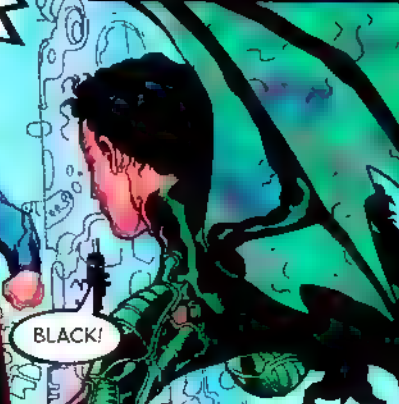
I CAN SAY THAT I'M A FIFTEENTH JAPANESE MYSELF.



WATCH IT -



YOU'RE MURDERING PEOPLE, AND CALLING YOURSELF "HEROES!" THIS IS NOT THE WAY THE JOB GETS DONE!



BLACK!



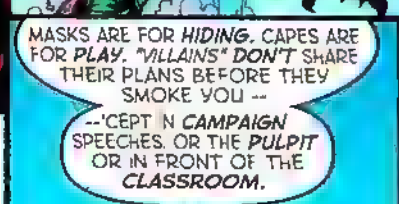
FUNNY WOULDNT HAVE PEGGED YOU FOR JEALOUS.



GOOD POUNDING THE SNOT OUT OF EVIL IN BRIGHT TIGHTS. NO QUESTIONS. NO "GREY AREAS."

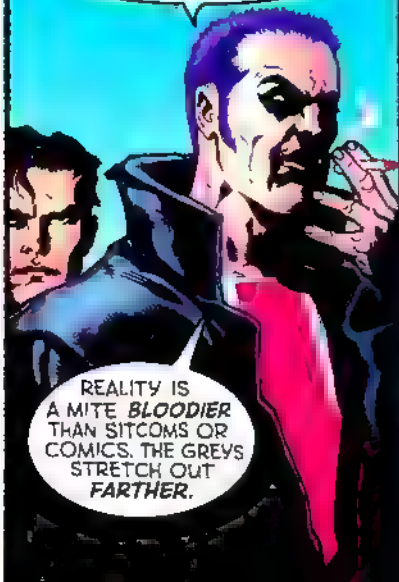
IT WAS A PERFECT BLOODY DREAM FOR A BOY WHO LOST A MOTHER TO LUNG CANCER AN A FATHER TO ADOLF.

AN THEN I WOKE UP.

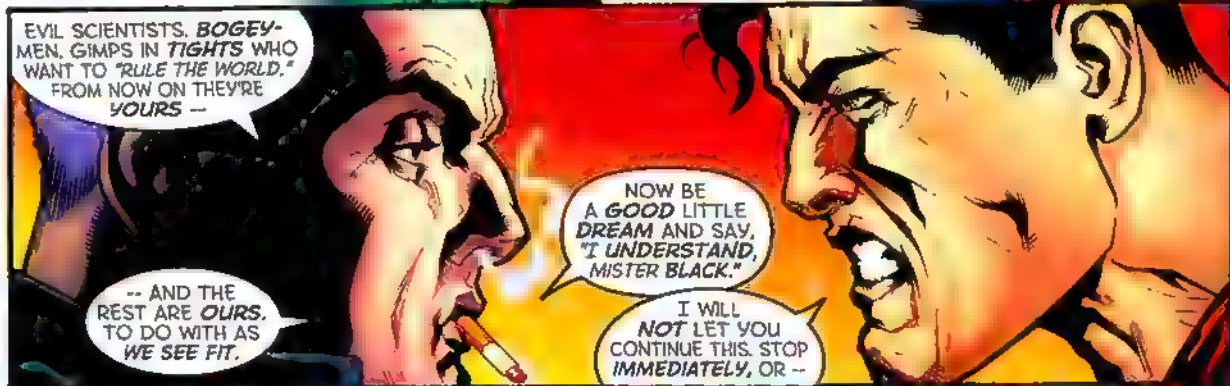
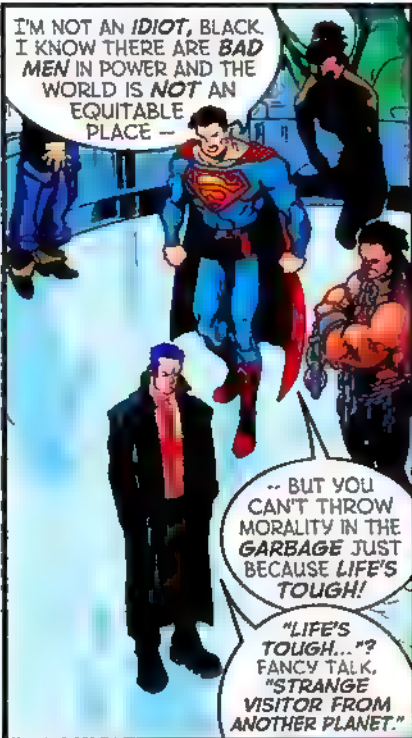


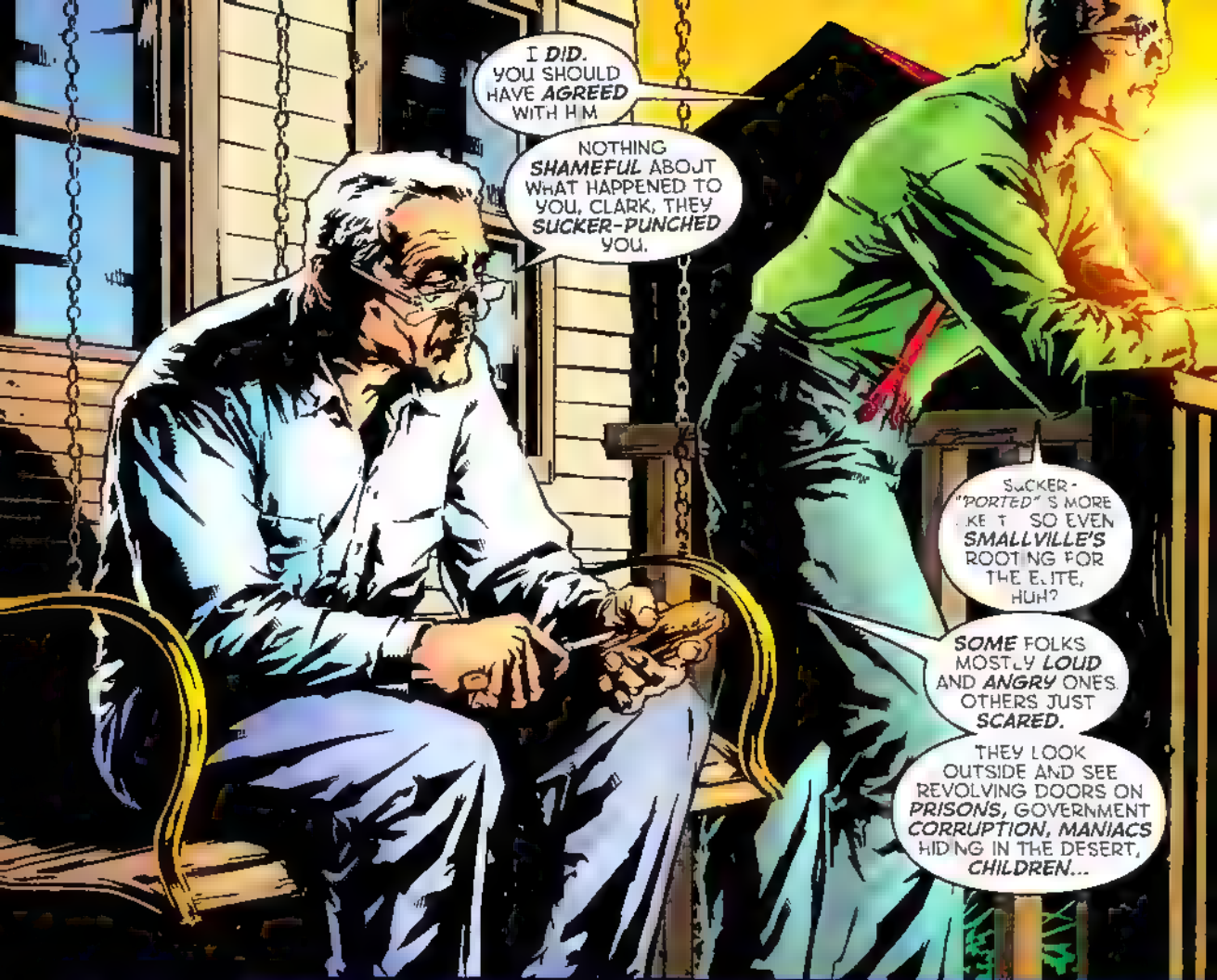
MASKS ARE FOR HIDING. CAPES ARE FOR PLAY. "VILLAINS" DON'T SHARE THEIR PLANS BEFORE THEY SMOKE YOU --

--CEPT N CAMPAIGN SPEECHES. OR THE PULPIT OR IN FRONT OF THE CLASSROOM.



REALITY IS A MITE BLOODIER THAN SITCOMS OR COMICS. THE GREYS STRETCH OUT FARTHER.





I DID.
YOU SHOULD
HAVE AGREED
WITH HIM

NOTHING
SHAMEFUL ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED TO
YOU, CLARK. THEY
SUCKER-PUNCHED
YOU.

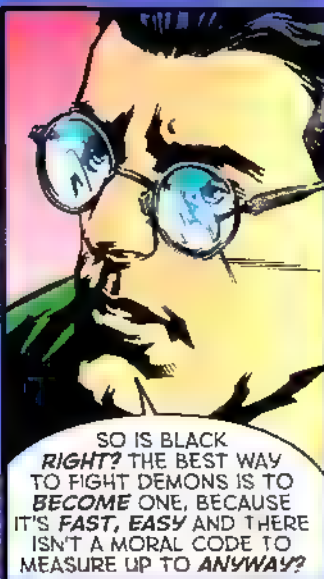
SUCKER-
"PORTED" S MORE
KE T SO EVEN
SMALLVILLE'S
ROOTING FOR
THE E.ITE,
HUH?

SOME FOLKS
MOSTLY LOUD
AND ANGRY ONES.
OTHERS JUST
SCARED.

THEY LOOK
OUTSIDE AND SEE
REVOLVING DOORS ON
PRISONS, GOVERNMENT
CORRUPTION, MANIACS
HIDING IN THE DESERT,
CHILDREN...

WELL, WHAT
HAPPENS TO
CHILDREN THESE
DAYS GETS
ANYONE'S
BLOOD UP

SOMETIMES
"TRUTH, JUSTICE,
AND THE AMERICAN
WAY" JUST DOESN'T
MAKE THEM FEEL BETTER
THEY WANT EASY
ANSWERS. QUICK
RESULTS.



SO IS BLACK
RIGHT? THE BEST WAY
TO FIGHT DEMONS IS TO
BECOME ONE, BECAUSE
IT'S FAST, EASY AND THERE
ISN'T A MORAL CODE TO
MEASURE UP TO ANYWAY?

'COURSE NOT, CLARK,
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST
TALK T'SOMEONE LIKE
THAT. YOU HAVE TO
TEACH HIM THERE'S A
BETTER WAY, LEAD
BY EXAMPLE.

MM.
WORKED FOR
BETTER MEN
THAN ME..

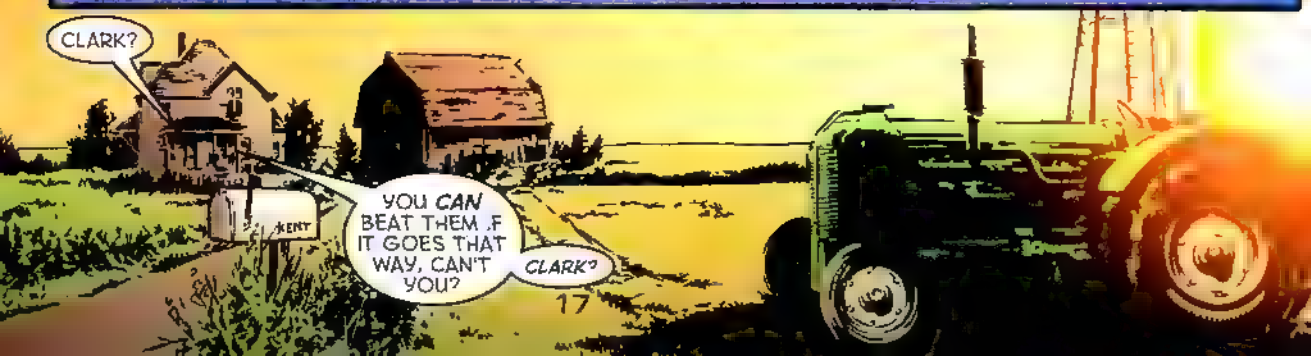


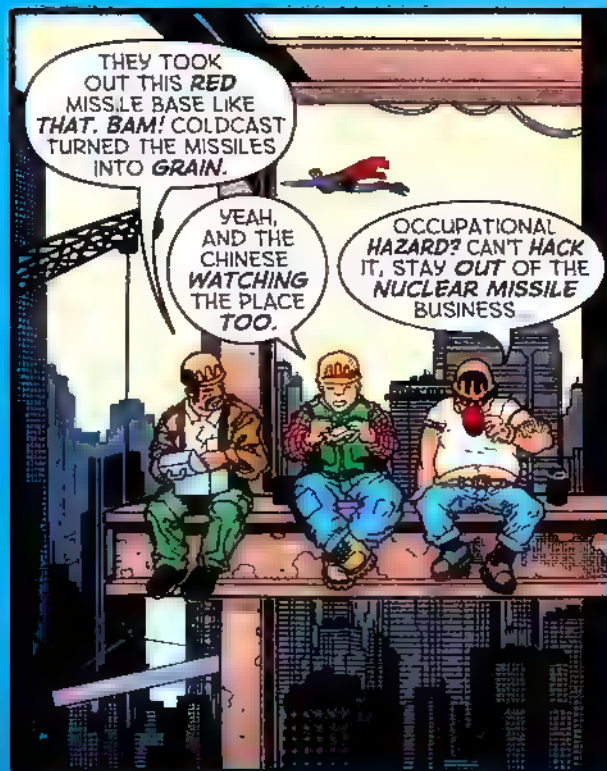
AND IF
IT DOESN'T, YOU
CAN ALWAYS KICK
THEM FROM HERE TO THE
HIGH HOLY LATER, RIGHT?

CLARK?

YOU CAN
BEAT THEM IF
IT GOES THAT
WAY, CAN'T
YOU?

CLARK?





THEY TOOK OUT THIS RED MISSILE BASE LIKE THAT. BAM! COLDCAST TURNED THE MISSILES INTO GRAIN.

YEAH, AND THE CHINESE WATCHING THE PLACE TOO.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD? CAN'T HACK IT, STAY OUT OF THE NUCLEAR MISSILE BUSINESS



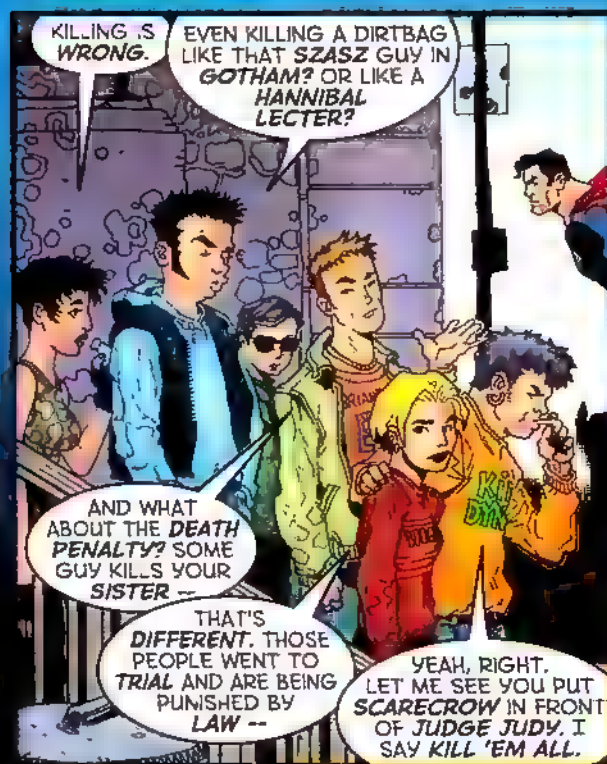
I DON'T FEEL SAFE WITH THOSE PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND!

DID SUPERMAN AVENGE LITTLE POOPSIE WHEN SHE WAS EATEN BY THE JOKER?

WELL, NO. HE HAD DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

WOULDN'T YOU HAVE FELT BETTER IF THAT NICE MENAGERIE GIRL HAD ONE OF HER BEASTIES TURN JOKER INTO A KNISH?

WELL... YES. YES I WOULD.



KILLING IS WRONG.

EVEN KILLING A DIRTBAG LIKE THAT SZASZ GUY IN GOTHAM? OR LIKE A HANNIBAL LECTER?

AND WHAT ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY? SOME GUY KILLS YOUR SISTER --

THAT'S DIFFERENT. THOSE PEOPLE WENT TO TRIAL AND ARE BEING PUNISHED BY LAW --

YEAH, RIGHT. LET ME SEE YOU PUT SCARECROW IN FRONT OF JUDGE JUDY. I SAY KILL 'EM ALL.



LATER FOR YOU GUYS, I'M GOIN' HOME!

BUT YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE SUPERMAN!

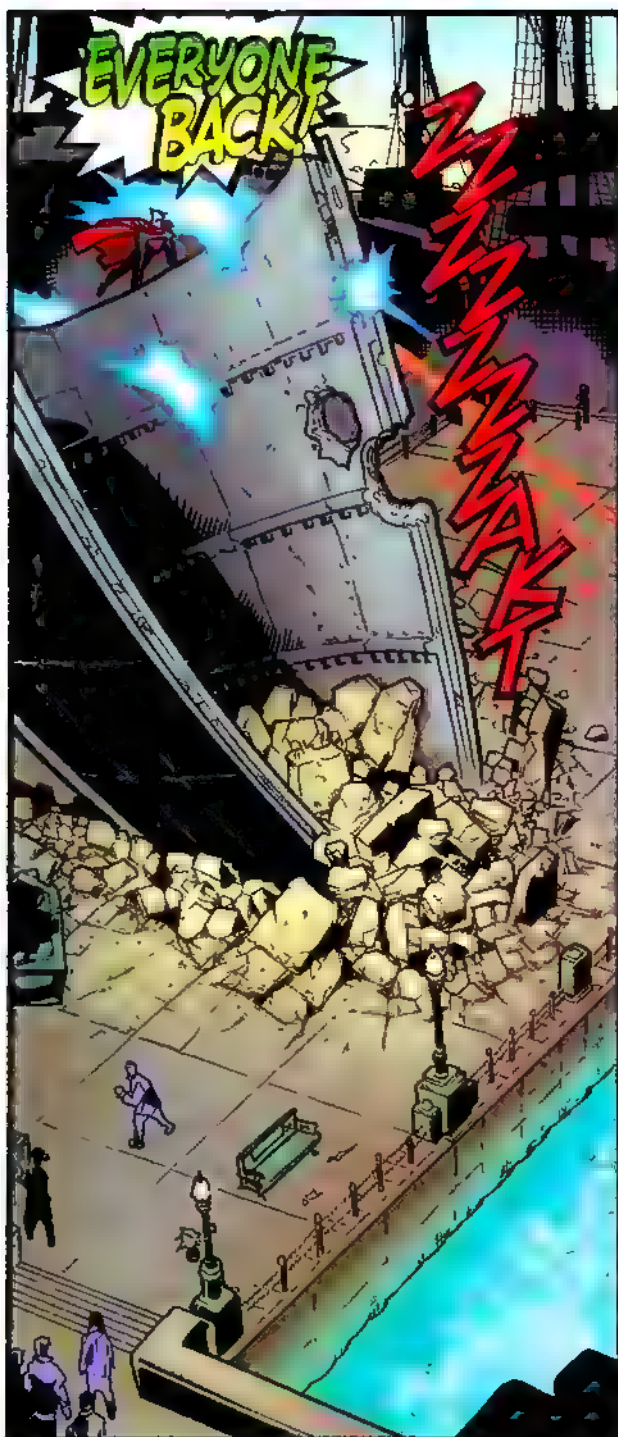
LAS'ONE CALLS IT SUPERMAN-- NOT IT!

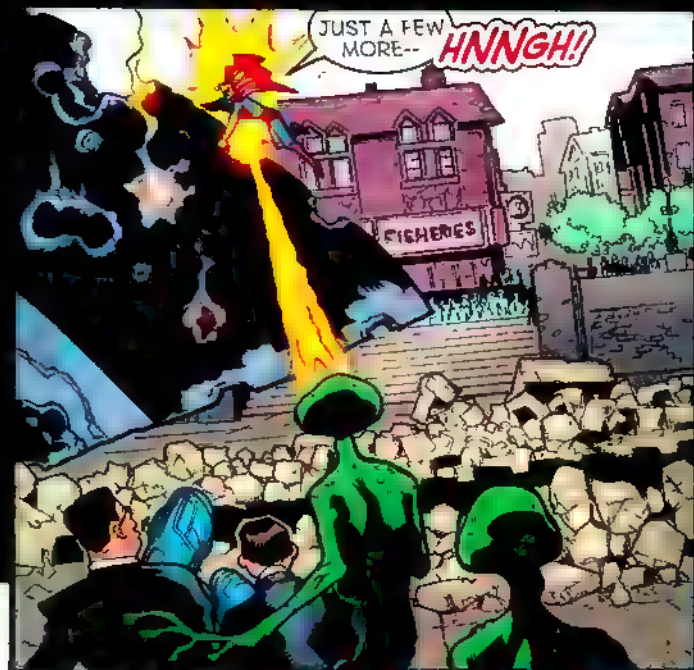
I CAN'T KILL YOU, BUT YOU CAN KILL ME! HOW CAN I STOP YOU IF I CAN'T KILL?

YOU CAN'T. SO LET US KILL YOU. AND YOU CAN BE SOMEONE ELSE.

"OKAY, KILL ME AN' I'LL BE SOMEBODY COOL."

"BEIN' SUPERMAN IS SO BEAT."





JUST A FEW MORE-- **HNNGH!!**



FINE. I'M NOT IN A CHATTY MOOD EITHER. LET'S JUST WRAP THINGS UP.

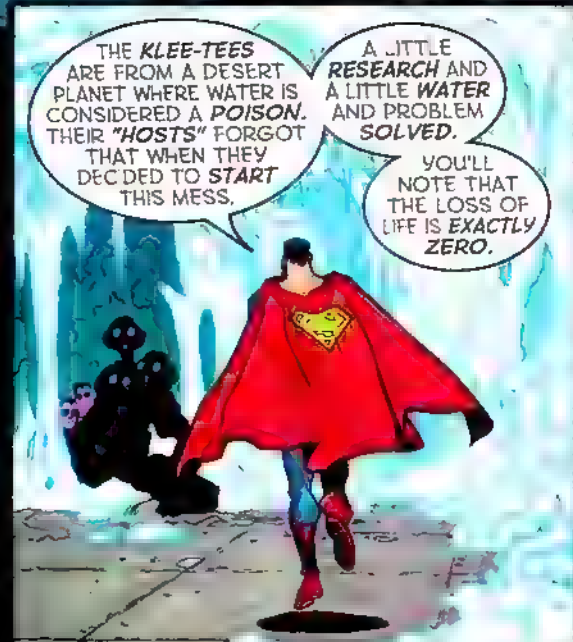
GRAVITY, DO YOUR THING--



NO! NOO!

THE SOLVENT! THE SOLVENT! HELP!

--AND I'LL DO MINE.



THE KLEE-TEES ARE FROM A DESERT PLANET WHERE WATER IS CONSIDERED A POISON. THEIR "HOSTS" FORGOT THAT WHEN THEY DECIDED TO START THIS MESS.

A LITTLE RESEARCH AND A LITTLE WATER AND PROBLEM SOLVED.

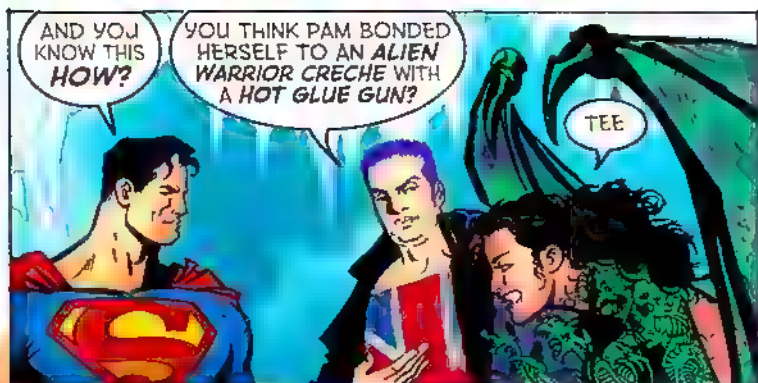
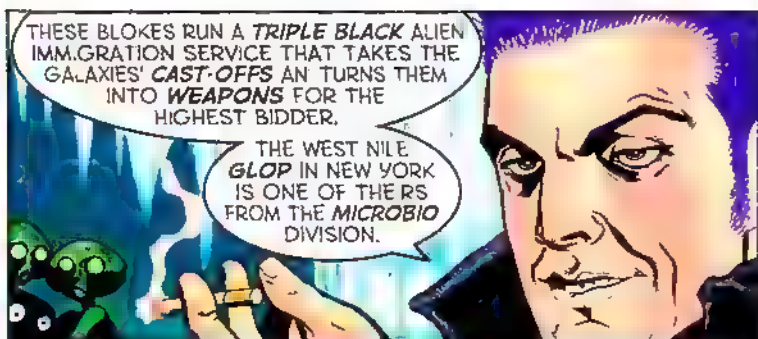
YOU'LL NOTE THAT THE LOSS OF LIFE IS EXACTLY ZERO.

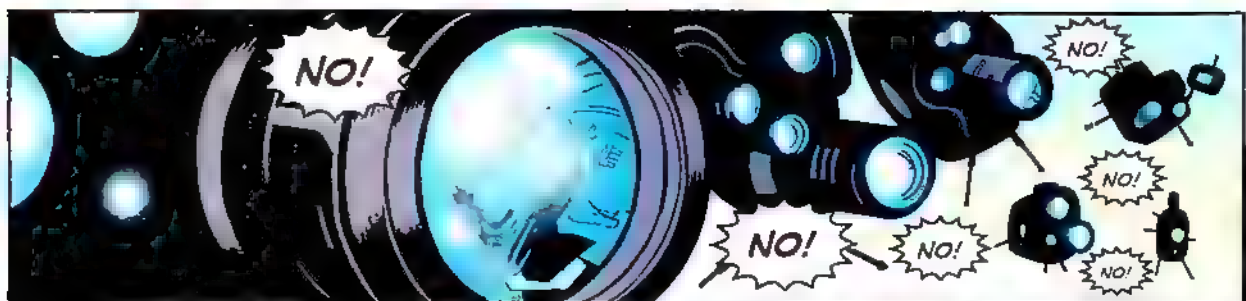


WELL, YOU SURE SHOWED US, DIDN'T YE?

WE'RE NOT HITTING ANYTHING? YO, I COULD BE WATCHING MONTEL--

CHILL, HAT







CLARK. WHEN I ASK YOU THIS. I'M ASKING AS **MRS. CLARK KENT**, OKAY? NOT AS AN ENLIGHTENED REPORTER SLASH ACTIVIST SLASH **WHATEVER.**

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS? WHY CAN'T YOU CALL THE **JLA** OR THE **NEW GODS** OR SOMEONE

THE ELITE DIDN'T TAKE THE FIGHT **TO** THE JLA OR THE NEW GODS OR SOMEONE, THEY WANTED **ME** --

NO. YOU WENT TO **THEM.**

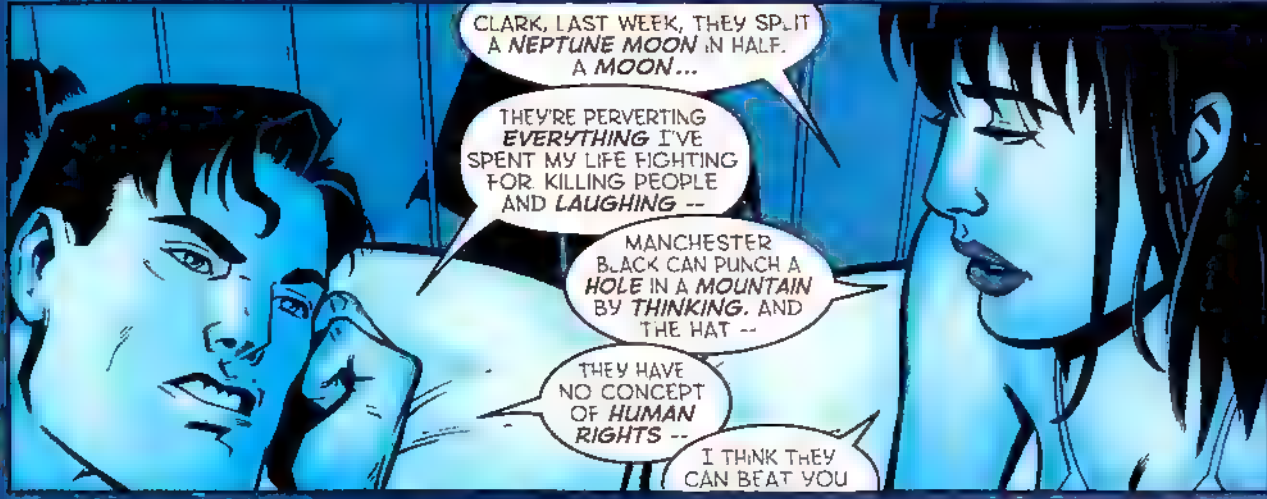


I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, I DID.

I DID

SO MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY MAYBE

NO



CLARK, LAST WEEK, THEY SPLIT A NEPTUNE MOON IN HALF. A MOON...

THEY'RE PERVERTING **EVERYTHING** I'VE SPENT MY LIFE FIGHTING FOR. KILLING PEOPLE AND **LAUGHING** --

MANCHESTER BLACK CAN PUNCH A HOLE IN A MOUNTAIN BY **THINKING**. AND THE HAT --

THEY HAVE NO CONCEPT OF **HUMAN RIGHTS** --

I THINK THEY CAN BEAT YOU



I HEARD A CHILD TELL HIS FRIEND THAT HE WANTED TO BE IN THE ELITE

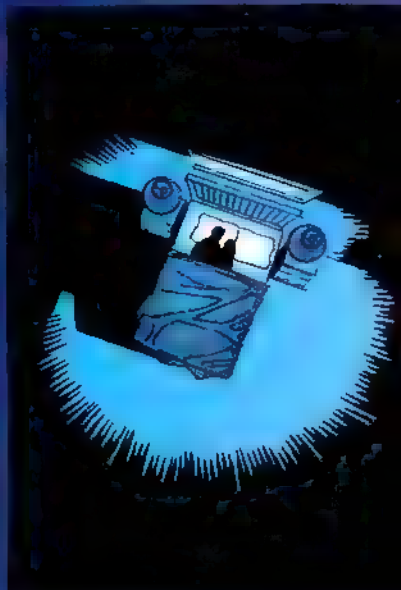
-- BECAUSE IT WOULD BE FUN TO KILL BAD GUYS FUN TO KILL.

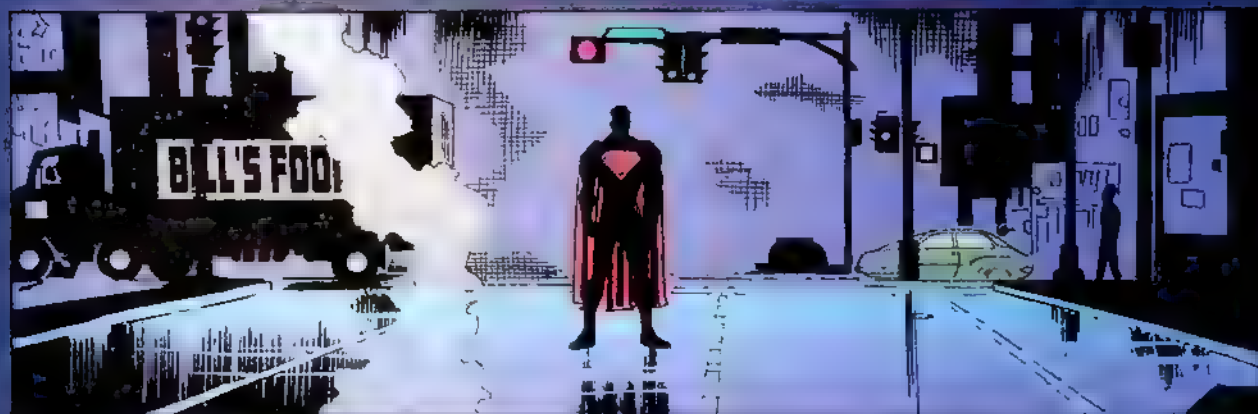


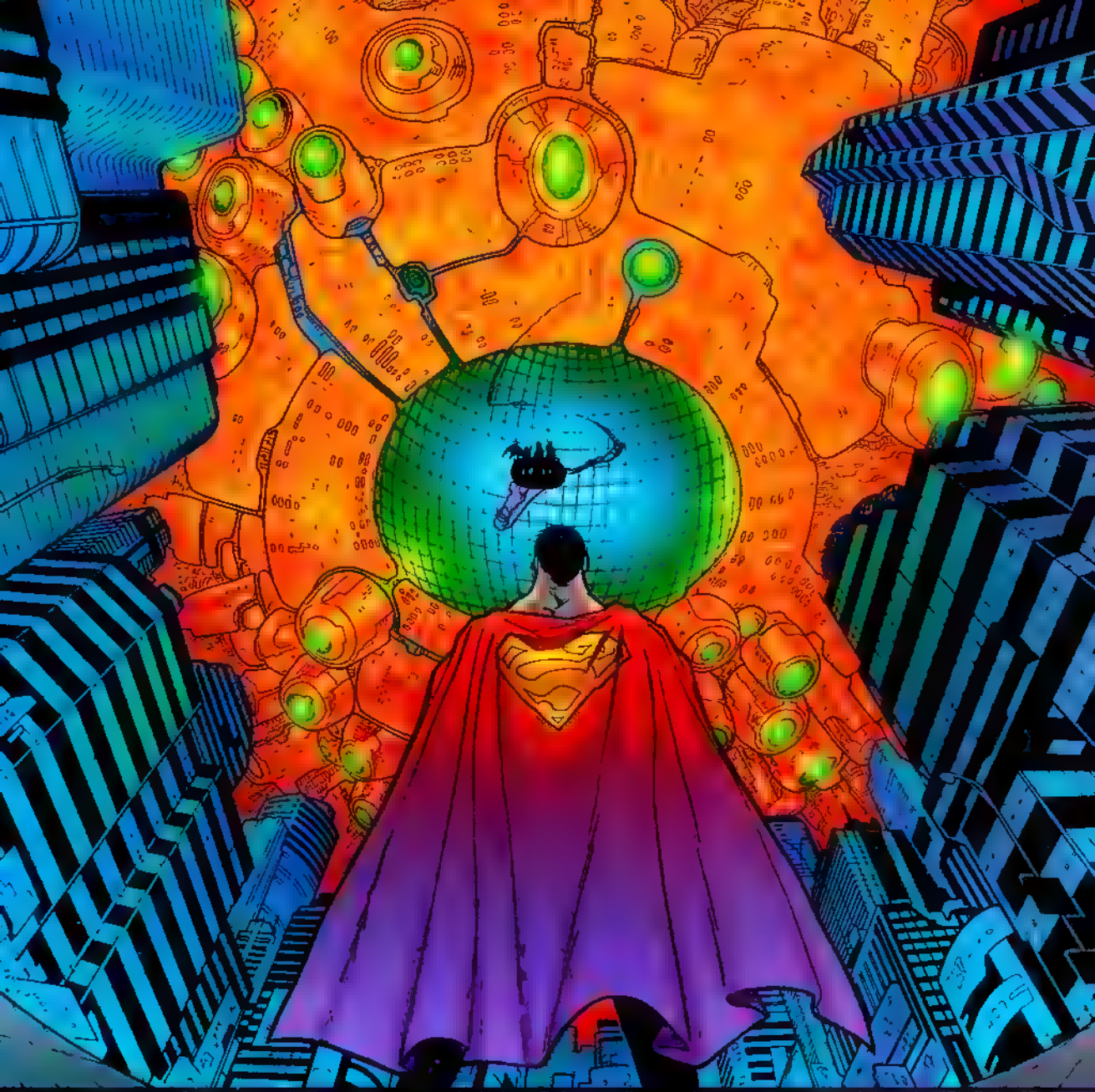
PEOPLE HAVE TO KNOW THAT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY, L.O.S. THEY HAVE TO HEAR A VOICE OF **COMPASSION** AND **FAITH**. INSTEAD OF **SPITE** AND **ANGER**.

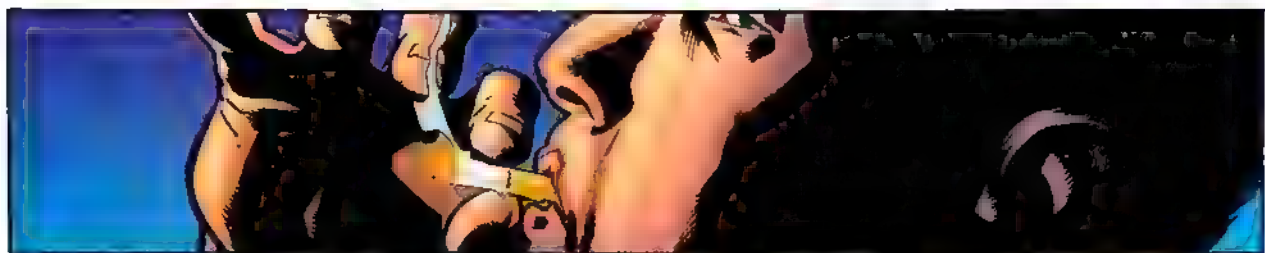
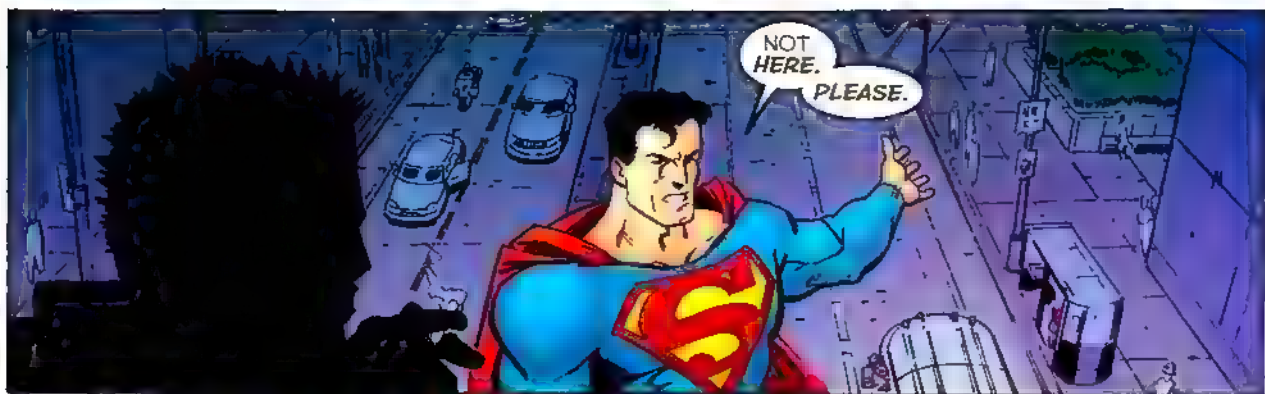
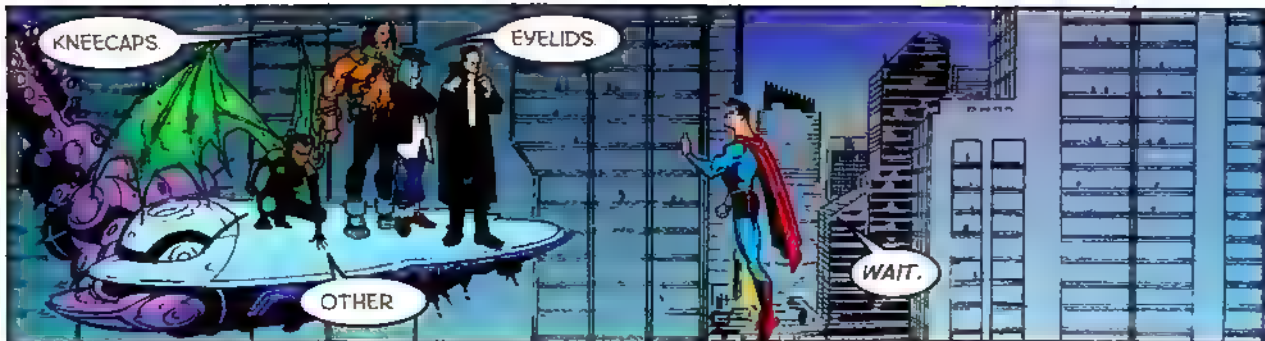
THEY HAVE TO SEE THAT **SOMEONE** BELIEVES IN HUMANITY STRONGLY ENOUGH --

TO **DIE** FOR THEM?









THE JUPITER
MOON IO.

ONE OF
OUR FIRST GIGS.
THESE **OBELISKS**
POPPED UP ALL OVER
THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
TURNED OUT THEY
WERE MEGA-OVUM
PREPPING TO
HATCH --

-- AND MOMMA
WAS AN ACT OF GOD
WITH AN ATTITUDE
FIGURED IF THERE WAS
NOTHING LEFT ALIVE
FOR HER TO HATCH,
MAYBE SHE'D
STAY HOME.

THIS ONE
WAS THE FARTHEST
ALONG. GENERATED IT'S
OWN OH TWO UP HERE
SORT OF A CUTIE IN A
DEAD ALIEN BABY
KIND OF WAY

I'VE TRIED
TO REASON
WITH YOU

I'VE TRIED
TO SHOW YOU
THERE IS **ANOTHER**
WAY THAN THE PATH OF
VIOLENCE YOU'VE CHOSEN

I'M
BEGGING YOU
TO HELP ME END THIS
WITHOUT FURTHER
BLOODSHED.

STAND
DOWN. COME
QUETLY N'TH ME AND
BE JUDGED FOR
YOUR CRIMES

- AND MAYBE
WE CAN ALL GET
OUT OF THIS IN
ONE PIECE.

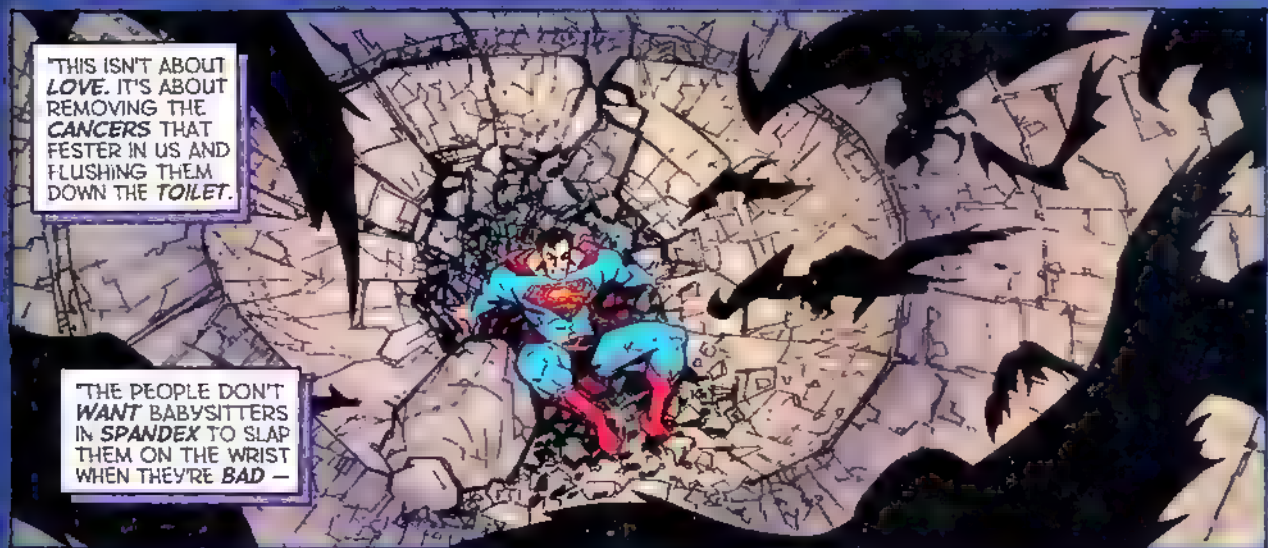


"RULE NUMBER **ONE**...
HE WHO HAS THE **POWER**
MAKES THE RULES.



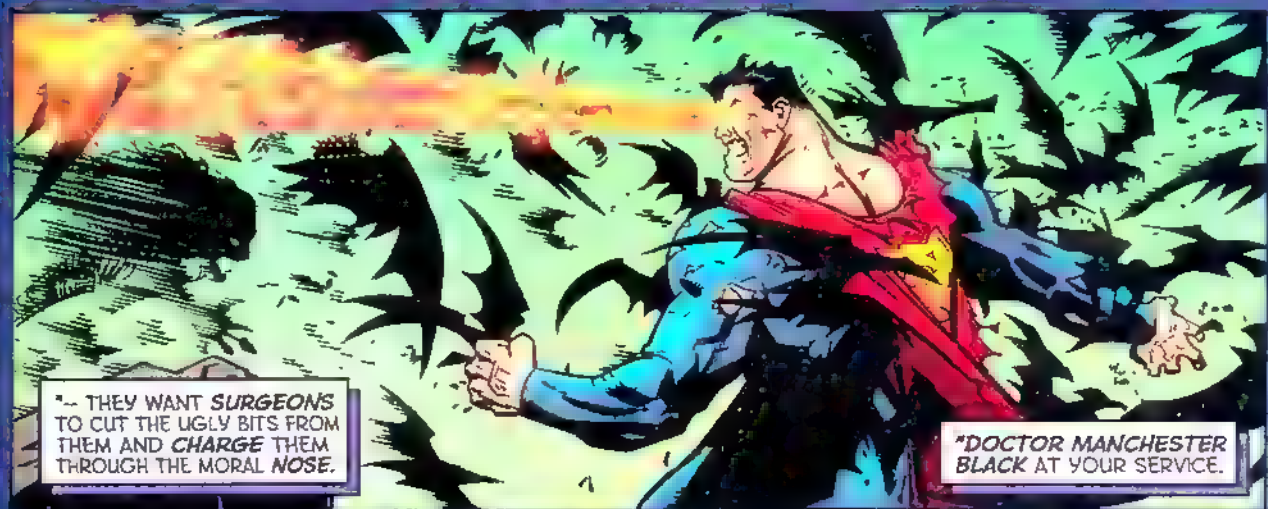
"THIS ISN'T ABOUT
LOVE. IT'S ABOUT
REMOVING THE
CANCERS THAT
FESTER IN US AND
FLUSHING THEM
DOWN THE **TOILET**.

"THE PEOPLE DON'T
WANT BABYSITTERS
IN **SPANDEX** TO SLAP
THEM ON THE WRIST
WHEN THEY'RE **BAD** —



"... THEY WANT **SURGEONS**
TO CUT THE UGLY BITS FROM
THEM AND **CHARGE** THEM
THROUGH THE **MORAL NOSE**.

"DOCTOR MANCHESTER
BLACK AT YOUR SERVICE.

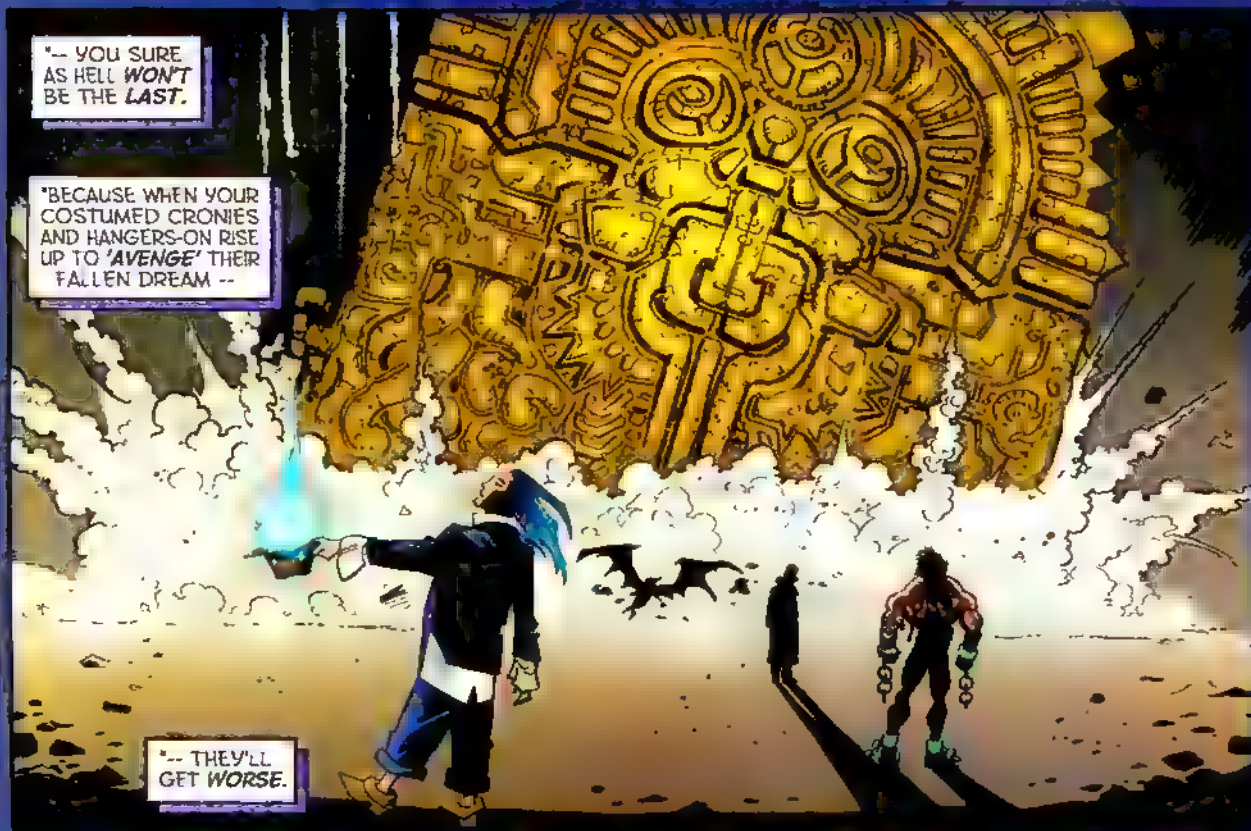


"I WANT YOU TO
KNOW SOMETHING
TOO, AS THIS ENDS,
QUICKER THAN
YOU EVER IMAGINED,
YOU'RE THE FIRST --



"-- YOU SURE
AS HELL *WON'T*
BE THE LAST.

"BECAUSE WHEN YOUR
COSTUMED CRONIES
AND HANGERS-ON RISE
UP TO 'AVENGE' THEIR
FALLEN DREAM --



"-- THEY'LL
GET WORSE.

"REALITY IS PAIN, BILE,
AND DARKNESS.

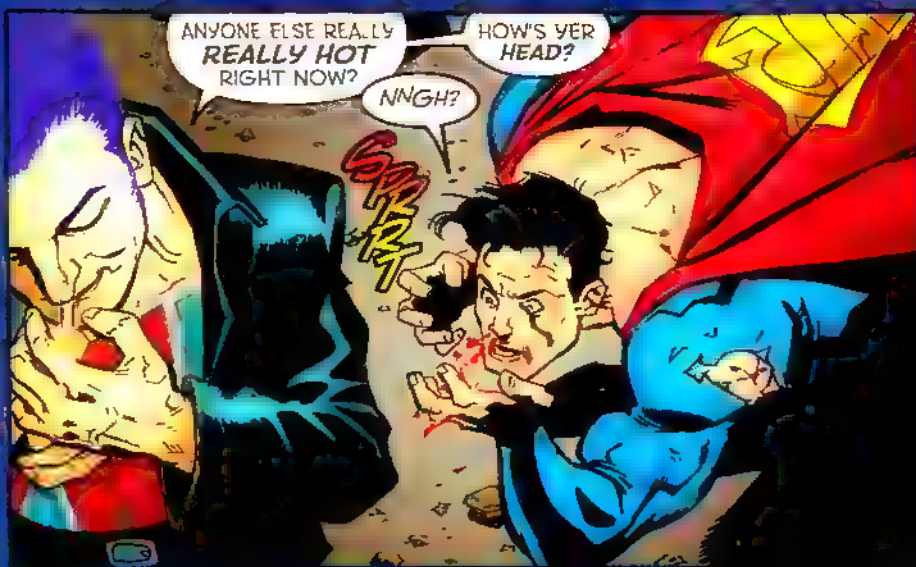


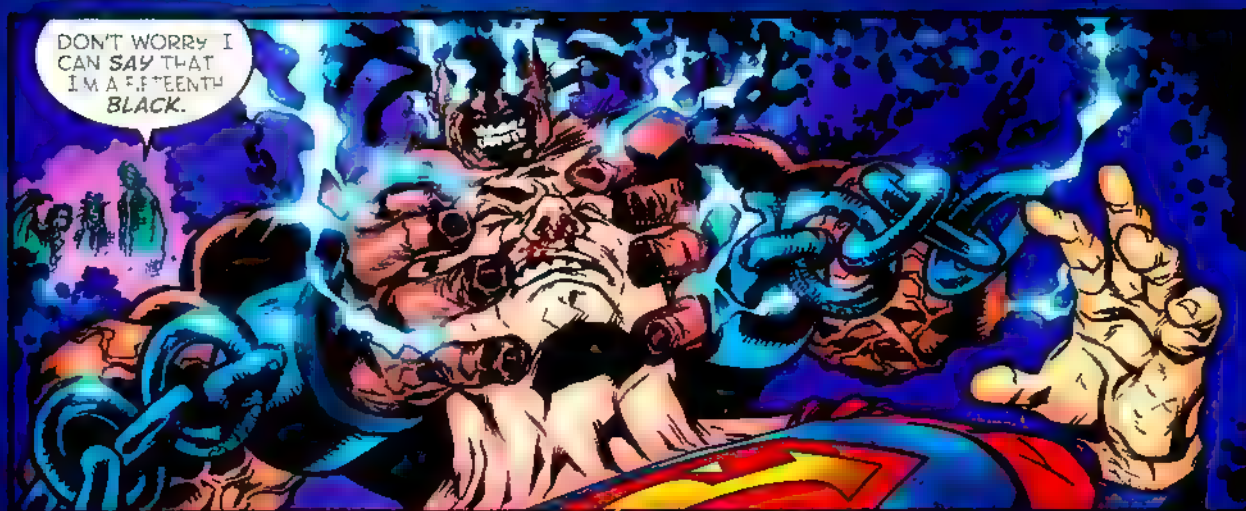
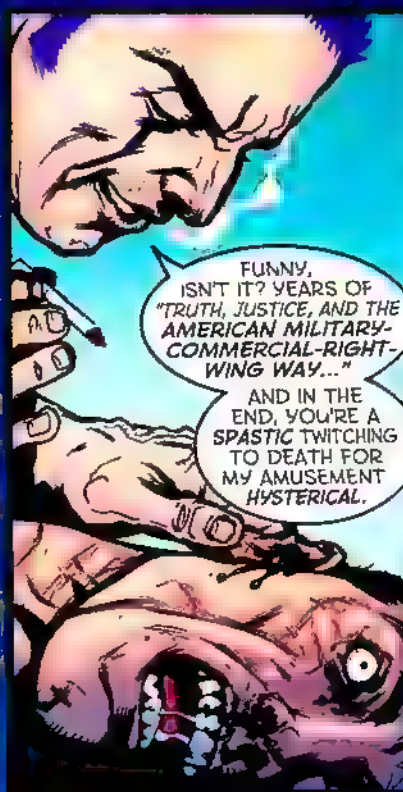
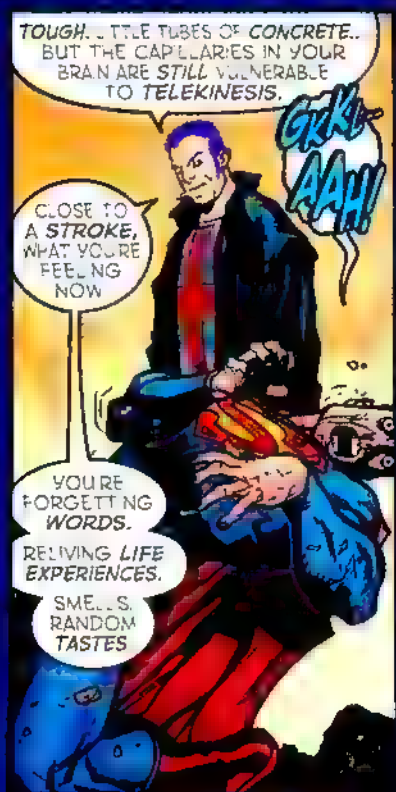
"REALITY
RULES."

ANYONE ELSE REALLY
REALLY HOT
RIGHT NOW?

HOW'S VER
HEAD?

NNGH?





"HOW IS IT THAT NO
MATTER HOW BADLY
YOU MASSACRE ONE
OF THESE THONG AND
BLANKET TYPES --"

-- SOME SHRED OF THEIR
UNDIES STILL SURVIVES
THE BLAST?

TROPHIES

RIGHT
WHO ELSE
HAS BUSINESS
TO PERFORM ON
THIS SHROUD
BEFORE WE HANG
IT UP? I FOR ONE
SHOULD LIKE
TO SCRUB
MY --

I
FINALLY
GET IT,
NOW

THANK
YOU

WHAT THE
HELL WAS
THAT?

I'VE MADE
THE MISTAKE
OF TREATING YOU
PEOPLE LIKE
PEOPLE

I
REPEAT.
WHAT THE
HELL

SHUT
IT.

CAN'T SMELL
HIM. SCORCHED AIR.
NO SONAR --

BUT NOW I
UNDERSTAND BETTER.
I UNDERSTAND WHAT
YOU ARE.



AND HOW TO
DEAL WITH
YOU

OW!
SOMETHING
BIT ME!?

GNAT

BIT
YOU-?

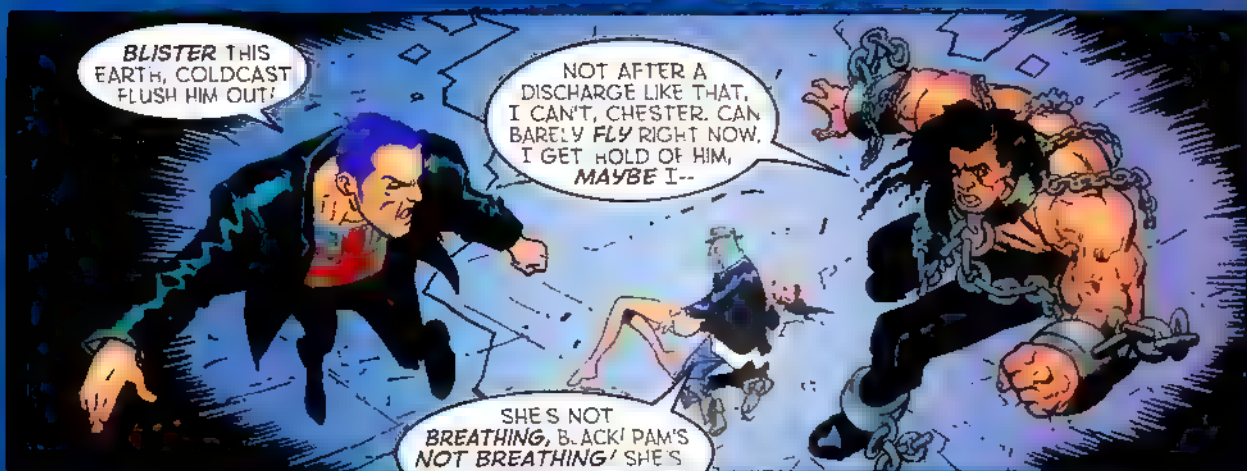


HOLY
GOD-- WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

POISON.
SOMETHING
WICKED.
RARE.

MENAGERIE HAS
A VERY PRECARIOUS
RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE SYMBEASTS. TURN
THE ZOO INTO A
TOXIC PIT...

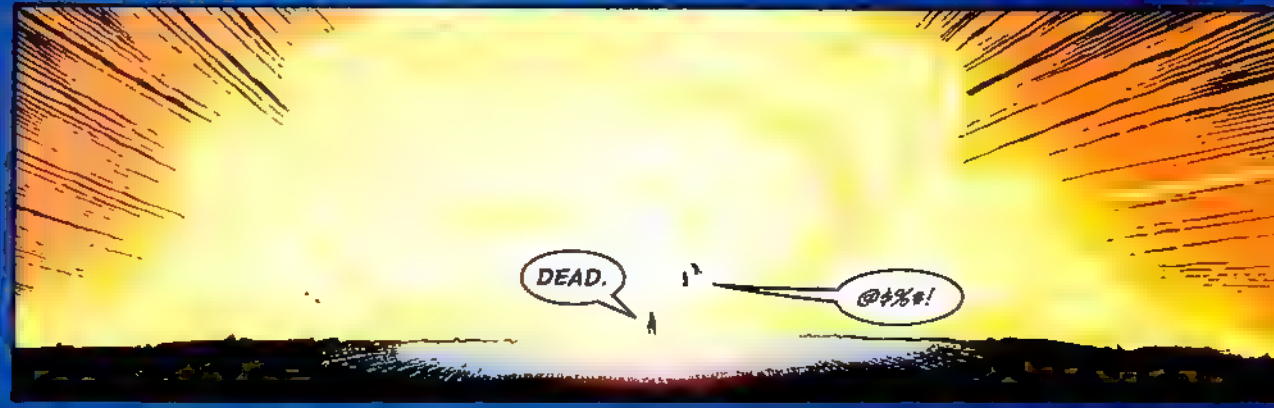
THE
GATES
BURST
OPEN.



BLISTER THIS
EARTH, COLDCAST
FLUSH HIM OUT!

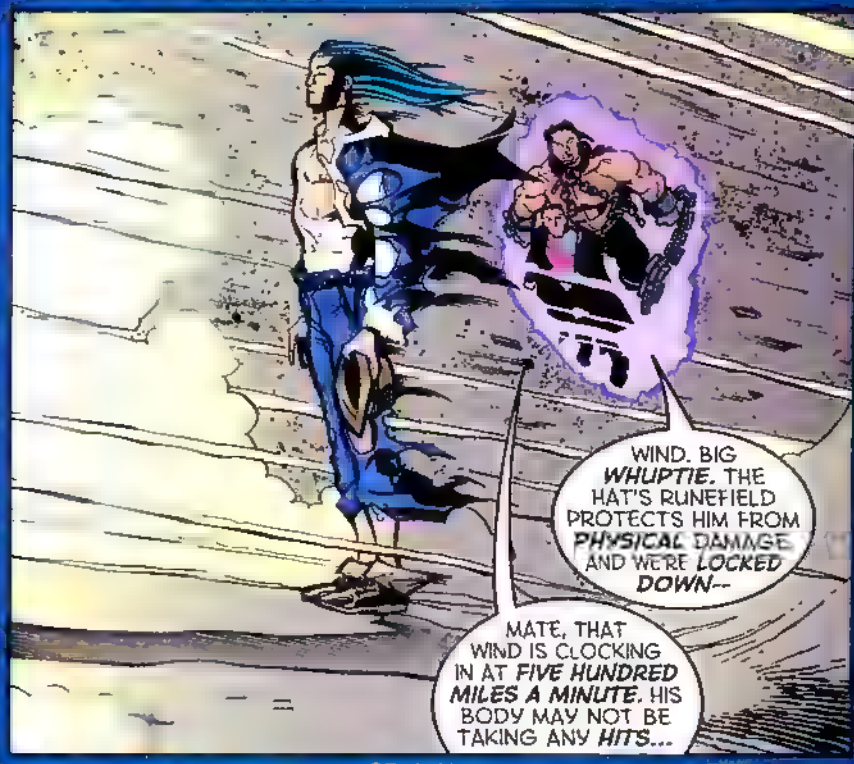
NOT AFTER A
DISCHARGE LIKE THAT,
I CAN'T, CHESTER. CAN
BARELY FLY RIGHT NOW.
I GET HOLD OF HIM,
MAYBE I--

SHE'S NOT
BREATHING, B.A.C.K! PAM'S
NOT BREATHING! SHE'S



DEAD.

@%#!



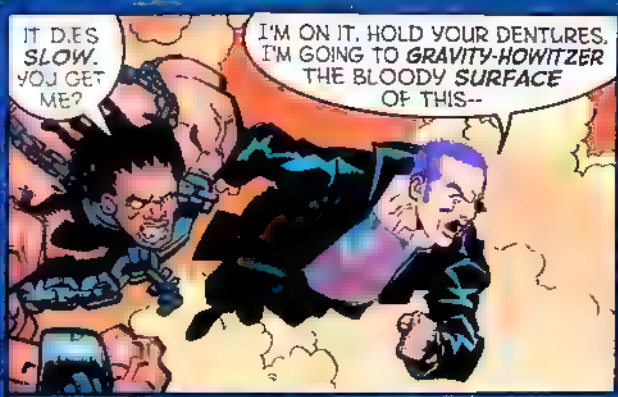
WIND. BIG WHUPTIE. THE HAT'S RUNEFIELD PROTECTS HIM FROM PHYSICAL DAMAGE AND WE'RE LOCKED DOWN--

MATE, THAT WIND IS CLOCKING IN AT FIVE HUNDRED MILES A MINUTE. HIS BODY MAY NOT BE TAKING ANY HITS...



...BUT HIS LUNGS JUST COLLAPSED FROM THE VACUUM.

FILTHY ROT... HE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH.

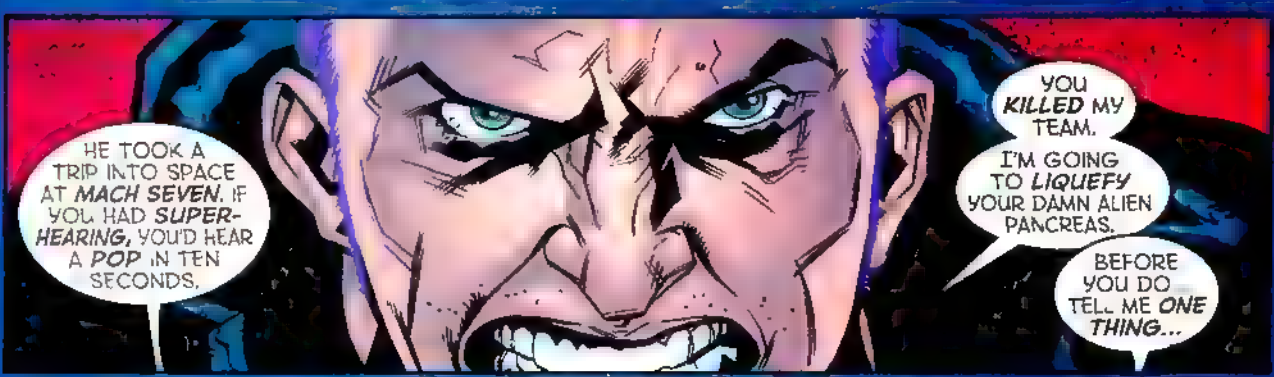


IT DIES SLOW. YOU GET ME?

I'M ON IT. HOLD YOUR DENTURES. I'M GOING TO GRAVITY-HOWITZER THE BLOODY SURFACE OF THIS--



MOTHER. CRAIG?

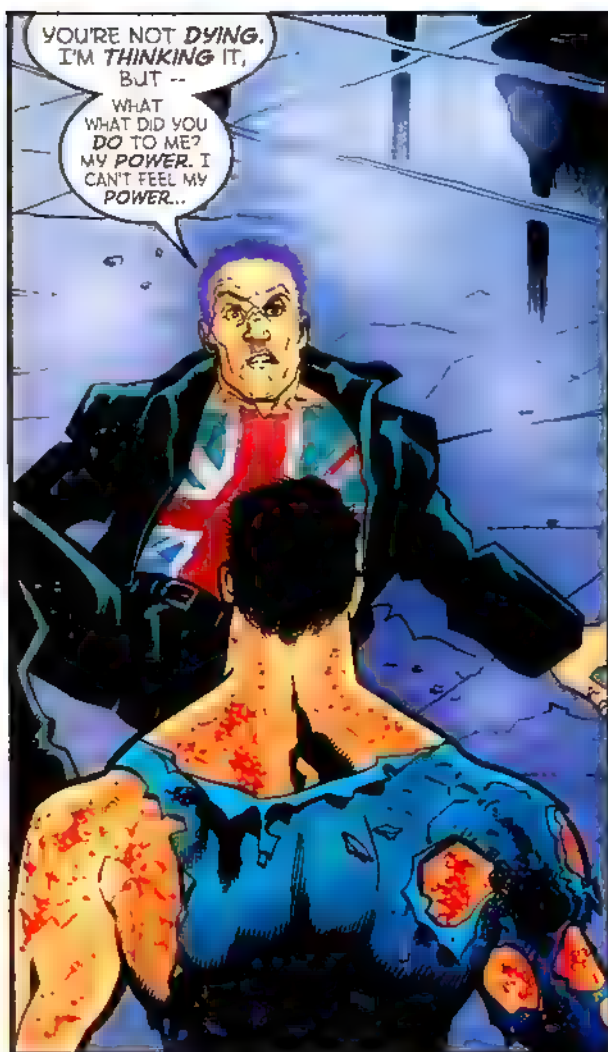
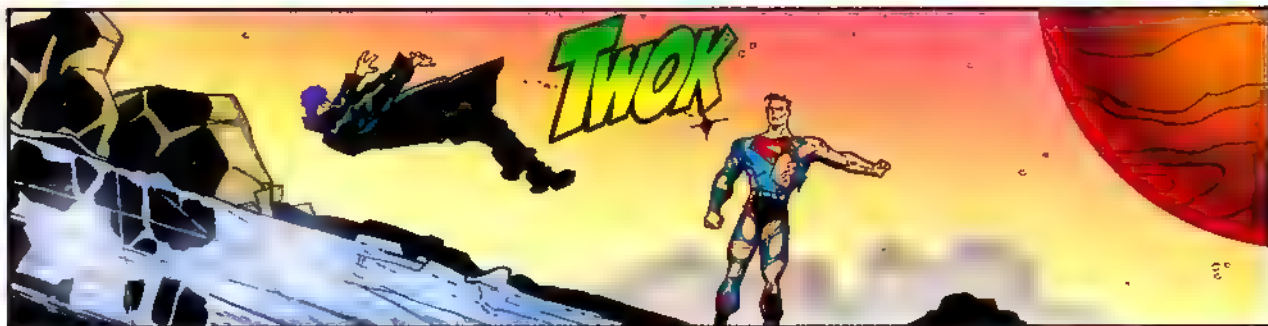
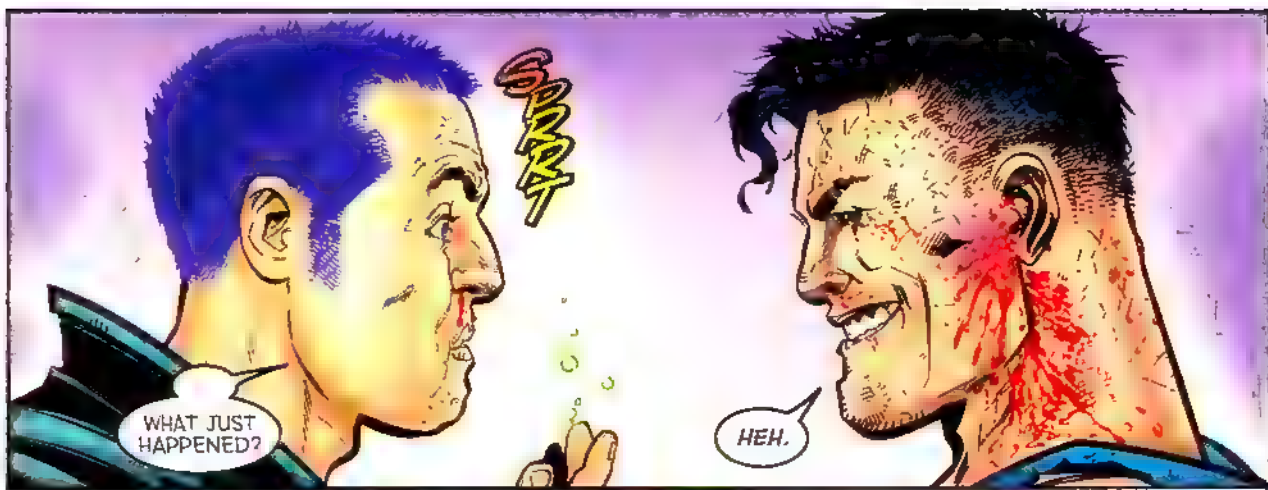


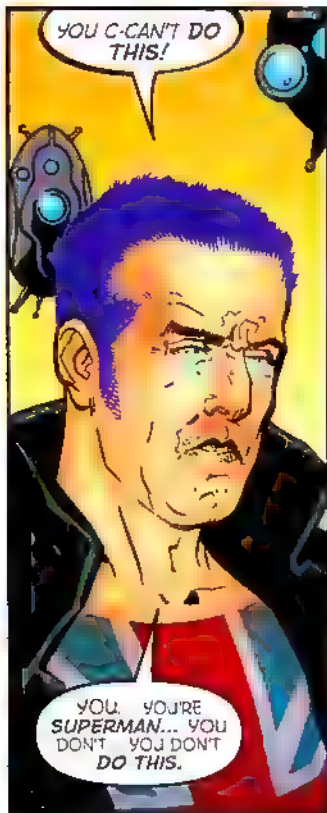
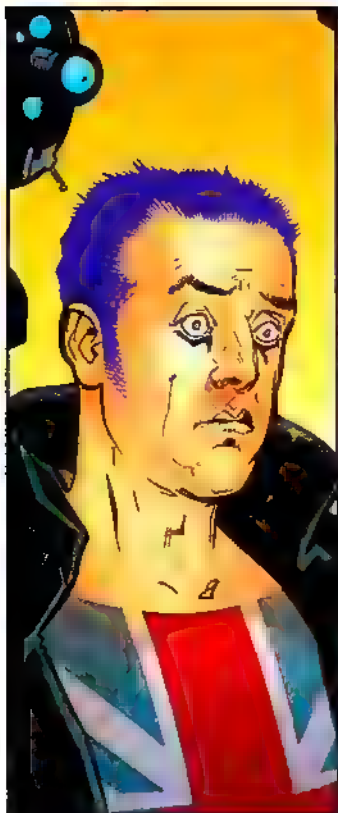
HE TOOK A TRIP INTO SPACE AT MACH SEVEN. IF YOU HAD SUPER-HEARING, YOU'D HEAR A POP IN TEN SECONDS.

YOU KILLED MY TEAM. I'M GOING TO LIQUEFY YOUR DAMN ALIEN PANCREAS.

BEFORE YOU DO TELL ME ONE THING...







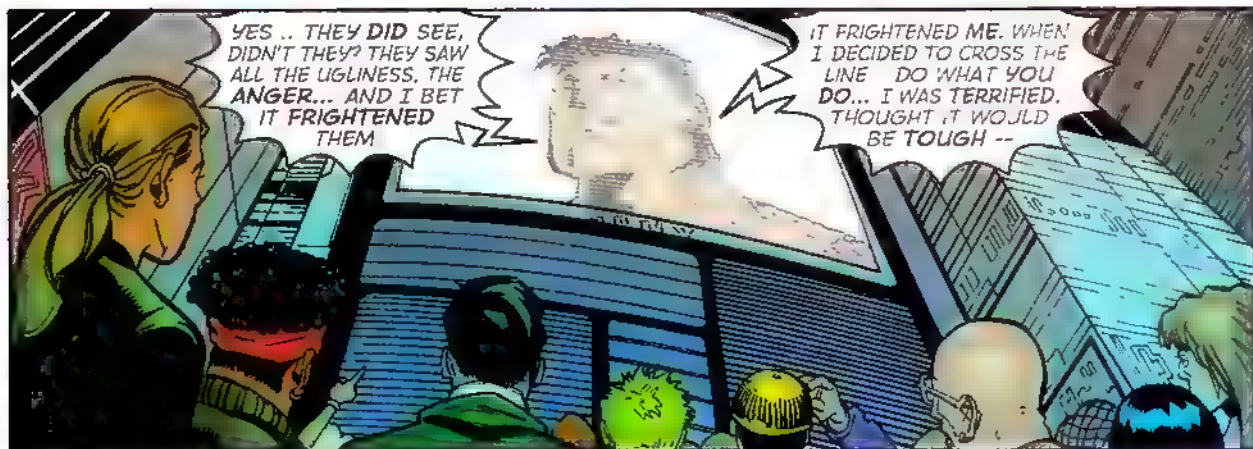
YOU C-CAN'T DO THIS!

YOU, YOU'RE SUPERMAN... YOU DON'T, YOU DON'T DO THIS.



YOU -- THEY SAW! EVERYONE ON EARTH SAW, YOU DEGENERATE! EVERYONE SAW WHAT YOU DID TO US AND **THEY KNOW!**

THEY KNOW YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN US! YOU'RE **NO BETTER!** THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT YOU!



YES... THEY DID SEE, DIDN'T THEY? THEY SAW ALL THE UGLINESS, THE ANGER... AND I BET IT FRIGHTENED THEM

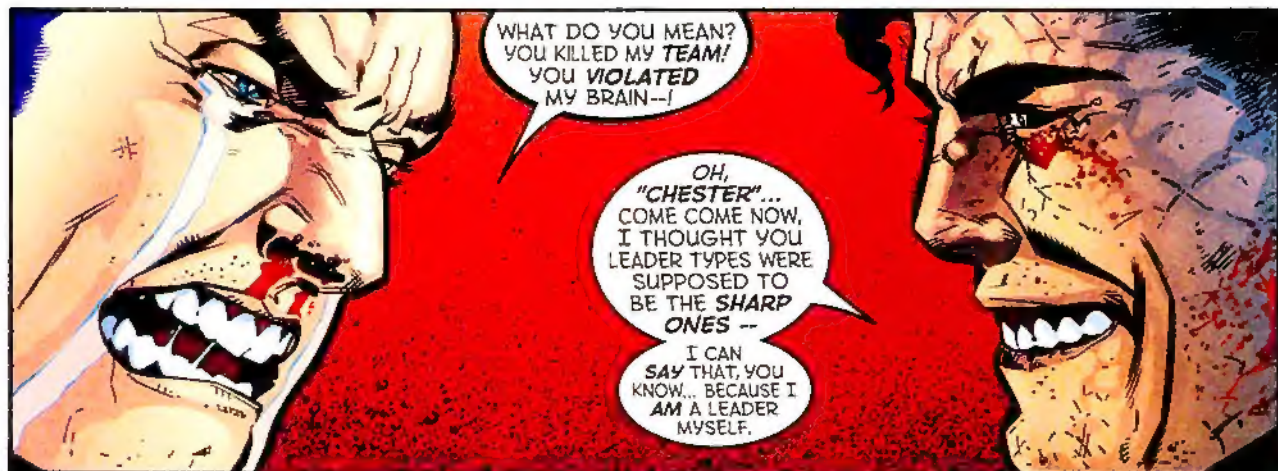
IT FRIGHTENED ME. WHEN I DECIDED TO CROSS THE LINE DO WHAT YOU DO... I WAS TERRIFIED. THOUGHT IT WOULD BE TOUGH --



--BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? ANGER IS EASY. HATE IS EASY. VENGEANCE AND SPITE ARE EASY.

LUCKY FOR YOU... AND FOR ME... I DON'T LIKE MY HEROES UGLY AND MEAN

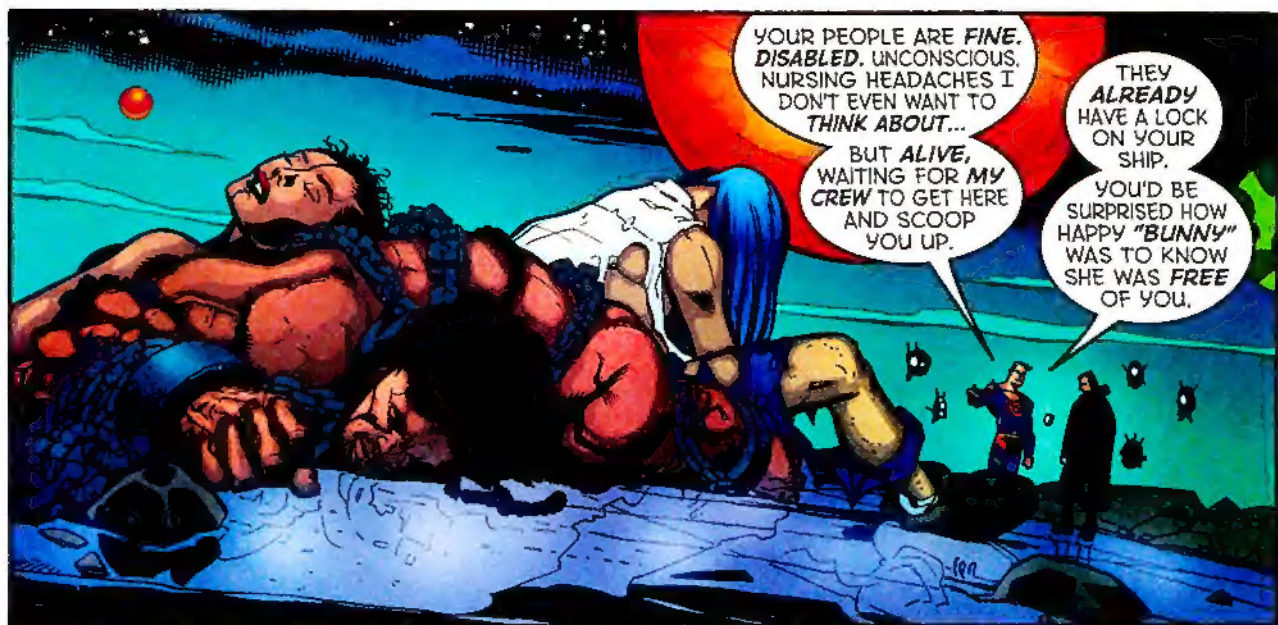
JUST DON'T BELIEVE IN IT



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU KILLED MY TEAM!
YOU VIOLATED
MY BRAIN--!

OH,
"CHESTER"...
COME COME NOW,
I THOUGHT YOU
LEADER TYPES WERE
SUPPOSED TO
BE THE SHARP
ONES --

I CAN
SAY THAT, YOU
KNOW... BECAUSE I
AM A LEADER
MYSELF.



YOUR PEOPLE ARE FINE.
DISABLED. UNCONSCIOUS.
NURSING HEADACHES I
DON'T EVEN WANT TO
THINK ABOUT...

BUT ALIVE,
WAITING FOR MY
CREW TO GET HERE
AND SCOOP
YOU UP.

THEY
ALREADY
HAVE A LOCK
ON YOUR
SHIP.

YOU'D BE
SURPRISED HOW
HAPPY "BUNNY"
WAS TO KNOW
SHE WAS FREE
OF YOU.



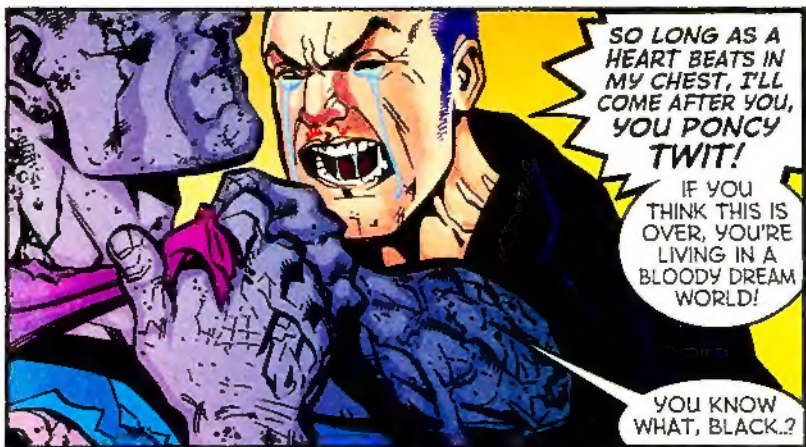
AS FOR YOU, ALL I DID WAS POP
YOU WITH THE EQUIVALENT OF A
FOCUSED CONCUSSION.

BY THE TIME
YOUR POWERS COME
BACK, YOU'LL BE SO HOPPED
UP ON PSI-DAMPENERS YOU
WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A
CARD TRICK.



...

YOU
STUPID SON OF
A MOTHERLESS
CAMEL TICK... YOU
SHOULD HAVE
STIFFENED VER LIP
AND DONE US ALL.



SO LONG AS A
HEART BEATS IN
MY CHEST, I'LL
COME AFTER YOU,
YOU PONCY
TWIT!

IF YOU
THINK THIS IS
OVER, YOU'RE
LIVING IN A
BLOODY DREAM
WORLD!

YOU KNOW
WHAT, BLACK?

I
WOULDN'T
HAVE IT ANY
OTHER
WAY.

DREAMS
SAVE US. DREAMS
LIFT US UP AND
TRANSFORM
US.

AND ON MY
SOUL, I SWEAR...
UNTIL MY DREAM
OF A WORLD WHERE
DIGNITY, HONOR AND
JUSTICE BECOMES
THE REALITY WE
ALL SHARE --

-- I'LL
NEVER STOP
FIGHTING.

EVER.

"What's so
funny about
Truth, Justice,
& The
American
Way?"

-- Clark Kent, Daily Planet,
January 2001

Superman
Created
by
JERRY
SIEGEL
JOE and
SHUSTER

JOE
KELLY
Writer

DOUG MAHNKE
LEE BERMEJO
Pencillers

TOM
NGUYEN
DEXTER
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JIM
ROYAL

JOSE
MARZAN
Inkers

WADE VON
CRAWBADGER

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DEP